

To: Peterson, Cynthia[Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov]
Cc: Faulk, Libby[Faulk.Libby@epa.gov]
From: Wharton, Steve
Sent: Thur 10/15/2015 1:34:03 PM
Subject: RE: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

Thanks!

From: Peterson, Cynthia
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 7:33 AM
To: Wharton, Steve
Cc: Faulk, Libby
Subject: RE: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

Steve,

Attached are some NPL related Q&As that were just approved by HQ. I'm not sure they directly address the questions, but perhaps they will help.

Cynthia Peterson

Community Involvement Coordinator

Public Affairs and Community Involvement

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII

1595 Wynkoop St. (8OC-PAI)

Denver, CO 80202-1129

303-312-6879 -- direct dial

From: Wharton, Steve
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 12:05 AM

To: Peterson, Cynthia
Cc: Faulk, Libby
Subject: Fwd: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

Cynthia - Do we have a Gold King Q&A on this issue, perhaps something related to the NPL status?

Thanks,

Steve

Sent from my EPA iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mylott, Richard" <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>
Date: October 14, 2015 at 5:08:16 PM MDT
To: "Williams, Laura" <williams.laura@epa.gov>, "Ostrander, David" <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>
Cc: "Smith, Paula" <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>, "McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa" <Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov>, "Wharton, Steve" <Wharton.Steve@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

Great, I'll look for Steve's input. I think this needs to be a pretty general answer. I also spoke briefly about this with David and he wanted to emphasize that any "long-term solutions" are ultimately contingent on Superfund listing. I tried to capture that, albeit indirectly, in a draft response below.

.....

EPA's immediate focus has been on getting the temporary treatment system constructed and operating. We expect to have more discussions with the state and local stakeholders regarding contaminant sources and impacts in the upper basin and potential solutions. One significant factor in determining the scope and scale of any future activity will be EPA's authorities and the resources associated with those authorities.

From: Williams, Laura
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 3:34 PM

To: Mylott, Richard; Ostrander, David
Cc: Smith, Paula; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Wharton, Steve
Subject: RE: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

I forwarded to Steve Wharton as remedial has been working on an Upper Animas watershed assessment/investigation. - lw

From: Mylott, Richard
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 3:21 PM
To: Ostrander, David; Williams, Laura
Cc: Smith, Paula; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Subject: FW: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

Per Lisa's message below, can you help with the AP questions on GKM and "long term strategies" below? I also have a separate question from Channel 7 asking if the treatment plant is operational yet...

Seems like general response 1.) outlining next steps in dialogue with DRMS and CDPHE and 2.) referencing what types of information we will be evaluating with state agencies/community for longer term would be sufficient....?

From: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:56 PM
To: Smith, Paula; Mylott, Richard
Subject: RE: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

Left Ostrander a message.

Lisa McClain-Vanderpool

Public Affairs Specialist/Media Officer

Office of Communications and Public Involvement

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, Colorado 80202

Office 303.312.6077

Cell 303.501.4027

From: Smith, Paula

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:49 PM

To: Mylott, Richard; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa

Subject: FW: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

Can you shepherd through?

- Paula

From: StClair, Christie

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:42 PM

To: Ostrander, David; McGrath, Shaun; Stalcup, Dana; Williams, Laura

Cc: Grantham, Nancy; Smith, Paula; Deitz, Randy; Bassler, Rachel; Cohen, Nancy

Subject: Associated Press (DDL 11am Eastern tomorrow): Upper Animas watershed evaluation

All,

Dan Elliott from AP is planning to do a story tomorrow morning saying the temporary plant is about to start up, and looking at possible longer-term solutions.

He says that when he asked CDPHE about "convening a conversation on long-term mitigation strategies," they seemed to know little about it.

He also mentioned our Sept. 23 response to one of his questions: "This system is temporary. Long term treatment will need to be decided after a more detailed evaluation of mine discharge sources in the Upper Animas watershed." He's asking if EPA is currently conducting a detailed evaluation of mine discharge sources in the area, or plans to conduct such an evaluation.

Can you help me develop a response? His deadline is 11am Eastern tomorrow, but can add info into the story after that if necessary. Please loop in as needed.

Thanks,

Christie

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780